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ST. NEOTS  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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THE  
ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
Medical Officer of Health  
and  
Surveyor & Chief Sanitary  
Inspector  
FOR THE YEAR  
1955



# ANNUAL REPORT

## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1955

by

J. CALDWELL, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P. & S., D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The year under review does not reveal any significant change in the general health of the population.

The Birth Rate, while showing a fractional decrease over last year's figure, still remains above the average for England and Wales.

There were ten more deaths in 1955 than in the previous year and as the population decreased by 470 the Death Rate has now risen to a level just above the figure for the country as a whole.

Vascular lesions of the nervous system (or 'strokes') accounted for the greatest number of deaths, followed by deaths from malignant disease.

Although infectious diseases ran at a higher level than last year, it cannot be said that any serious epidemic occurred. Measles, however, appears to have reached considerable proportions in the Kimbolton area in July and August when about 60 cases were notified.

Diphtheria was again conspicuous by its absence in the district—the last notified case having occurred in 1947. During the year, 239 children were immunised against this disease and more would probably have been done had it not been for the presence of poliomyelitis in other parts of the county.

Paxton Park Maternity Hospital ceased to operate as such early in September, 1955, and from that date maternity facilities were provided at Primrose Lane in Huntingdon as a temporary measure until a Maternity Wing can be added to the County Hospital.

Water supply in the district is satisfactory except for intermittent supply in the Kimbolton higher parts, Catworth and Stow Longa. This supply is receiving the attention of the Raunds U.D.C., St. Neots R.D.C. and the Ministry with a view to improvements in both supply and pressure. A safe and wholesome supply is revealed by the regular analysis of both raw and treated water.

The sewerage and sewage disposal scheme submitted to the Ministry in respect of Kimbolton and Great Staughton has been approved in principle, but it is regretted that owing to financial restrictions no start has yet been possible. It is a pity that urgent Public Health schemes of this nature have to be deferred on financial grounds.

The Slum Clearance Survey has been submitted to the Ministry and revealed 133 houses to be dealt with in the next five years.

In conclusion I should like to thank members of the Council for their consideration and kindness and also all their officers for their continued help and co-operation.

Your obedient servant,

J. CALDWELL.

**STAFF.****Medical Officer of Health.**

**J. CALDWELL, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P. & S., D.P.H.**

**Chief Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor and Water Engineer.**

**M. FAWCETT, M.S.I.A., M.R. San.I.**

(Tel. St. Neots 402/3 and Buckden 282).

**Additional Sanitary Inspector and Assistant Surveyor.**

**D. F. SWEETING, M.S.I.A.**

(Tel. Kimbolton 303).

**Water Superintendent.**

**S. G. ERRIDGE** (deceased 7th August, 1955).

**W. A. COLES** (appointed 1st September, 1955). Tel. Eaton Socon 314.

**STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.**

Area: 52,559 acres (approximately 81 square miles).

Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1955: 2,429.

Rateable Value of the district: £30,663.

Value of a Penny Rate: £120.

Estimated population (Mid 1955): 7,280.

Estimated population (Mid 1954): 7,750.

**COMMITTEES CONCERNED WITH PUBLIC HEALTH****Housing & Public Health Committee:**

Chairman: Councillor E. Bowles.

**Water & Sewage Committee:**

Chairman: Councillor C. F. Smith.

**Finance & Rating Committee:**

Chairman: Councillor H. Higgins.

**Chairman of the Council:**

1955/56: Councillor R. H. Shelley.

1954/55: Councillor H. Storey.

**Clerk to the Council:**

D. J. Dear.

**VITAL STATISTICS****LIVE BIRTHS**

	M.	F.	Total		
Legitimate ...	50	62	112	Birth-rate per 1,000 esti-	
Illegitimate ...	3	1	4	mated population ...	15.9
	—	—	—	(Ditto for England and	
				Wales) ...	15.0
Total ...	53	63	116		

**STILL BIRTHS**

Legitimate ...	3	-	3	Rate per 1,000 Total (Live	
Illegitimate ...	-	1	1	and Still) births ...	33.3
	—	—	—	(Ditto for England and	
				Wales) ...	23.1
Total ...	3	1	4		

**DEATHS (ALL AGES)**

	47	46	93	Death-rate per 1,000 esti-	
				mated population ...	12.8
				(Ditto for England and	
				Wales) ...	11.7

## DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR

		M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	...	1	2	3
Illegitimate	...	-	-	-
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	...	1	2	3

## DEATH RATES OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	25.9
(Ditto for England and Wales)	...	24.9
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	26.8
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live birth		-

## CAUSES OF DEATH.

(Registrar General's List).

List No.	Cause	Male	Female
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	1
2	Tuberculosis, other	...	—
3	Syphilitic	...	—
4	Diphtheria	...	—
5	Whooping cough	...	—
6	Meningococcal infections	...	—
7	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	—
8	Measles	...	—
9	Other infective and parasite diseases	...	1
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	1
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	7
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	—
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	1
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	—
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	8
16	Diabetes	...	—
17	Vascular lesions of the nervous system	...	1
18	Coronary disease, angina	...	11
19	Hypertension with heart disease	...	5
20	Other heart disease	...	2
21	Other circulatory diseases	...	3
22	Influenza	...	1
23	Pneumonia	...	3
24	Bronchitis	...	2
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	—
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	1
27	Gastritis, enteritis, diarrhoea	...	2
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	—
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	1
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, Abortion	...	1
31	Congenital malformations	...	—
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	1
33	Motor vehicle accidents	...	3
34	All other accidents	...	7
35	Suicide	...	1
36	Homicide and operations of war	...	—
	Total all causes	...	47
			46



## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

### (a) Laboratory Facilities.

The following Laboratory Facilities have been available to this authority and to General Practitioners in the area:

Public Health Laboratory Service, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.  
Tel. Cambridge 55526.

Public Analyst (S. Greenburgh, PH.D., B.Sc., F.I.C.), Tennison Rd.,  
Cambridge. Tel. Cambridge 2097.

### (b) Ambulance Services.

- (i) Ambulances administered by the County Ambulance Service, operating in conjunction with the County Fire Service, have been available on doctor's orders (Tel. Huntingdon 348).

### (c) Home Nursing.

Nurse-midwives employed and supervised by the Huntingdon County Council carried out Home Nursing and attended Maternity Cases in the District:—

- (i) A nurse residing in Great Staughton (Tel. Kimbolton 271), attended cases in Kimbolton, Great Staughton, Grafham, Perry, Tilbrook, Dillington and Hail Weston.
- (ii) A nurse residing in Eltisley (Tel. Croxton 210), attended cases in Gt. Paxton, The Offords, Toseland, Yelling, Great Gransden, Waresley and Abbotsley.
- (iii) A nurse residing in Brampton (Tel. Huntingdon 336), attended in Buckden, Diddington and Southoe.
- (iv) A nurse residing in Brington (Tel. Bythorn 233), attends in Catworth and Covington.
- (v) Little Paxton was attended by a nurse living in St. Neots (Tel. St. Neots 215).

### (d) Clinics and Treatment Centres.

- (1) The following Health Services, provided by the Huntingdon County Council, were available:—

<u>Clinic</u>	<u>Patients seen.</u>	<u>When held</u>	<u>Where held.</u>
Minor Ailments	Schoolchildren	1st Thursday in month 10—11.30 a.m.	Liberal Club, St. Neots.
		1st Friday in month, 10.30—11.30 a.m.	Village Hall, Great Staughton.
		Every Monday, 9.30—10.30 a.m.	Old Grammar School, Huntingdon.

Dental	Pre-School and School-children.	1st Thursday in month, 10 a.m.—12 noon, 2.0—2.30 p.m.	Red Cross Room, High Street, St. Neots.
	Pre-Natal & Nursing Mothers.	Every Wednesday (except 2nd in month) and every Saturday. 10 a.m.—12 noon (by appointment).	Princes Street, Huntingdon.
Infant Welfare	Children (0—5 years)	Every Wednesday and Thursday, 2—4 p.m.	Liberal Club, St. Neots.
		3rd Monday in month, 2—4 p.m.	Mandeville Hall, Kimbolton.
		3rd Tuesday in month, 2—4 p.m.	Methodist Schoolroom, Buckden.
		1st Friday in month 2—4 p.m.	Village Hall, Great Staughton.
		3rd Monday in month, 2—4 p.m.	Reading Room, Gt. Gransden.

(II) The following Health Services are the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board, but administered on an agency basis by the Huntingdon County Council:—

<u>Clinic</u>	<u>Patients seen.</u>	<u>When held</u>	<u>Where held.</u>
Ophthalmic	Pre-School and School-children.	1st and 3rd Fridays in month (by appointment, except in emergency), 10 a.m.—12 noon, 2—4 p.m.	Old Grammar School, Huntingdon.
Orthopaedic	Ditto.	2nd and 4th Tuesdays in month (by appointment), 10 a.m.—12 noon.	Ditto.

(III) The following Health Services are now provided by the Regional Hospital Board:—

<u>Clinic</u>	<u>Patients seen.</u>	<u>When held</u>	<u>Where held.</u>
Chest	All ages	Every Thursday, 10 a.m.—12 noon.	County Hospital, Huntingdon.
Venereal Diseases	All cases	Mondays, 3—7 p.m. Wednesdays, 4—6.30 p.m.	Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.
		Males:	
		Mondays, 5.30—7.0 p.m.	Out-Pat. Dept.,
		Wednesdays, 5.30—7.0 p.m.	Memorial Hosp.,
		Females:	
		Tuesdays, 10.30—12 noon	Peterborough.
		Thursdays, 5.30—7.0 p.m.	

Medical, Surgical, Orthopaedic, Paediatric, Skin, Obstetrical, Gynaecological and Dental Out-patient Clinics are held at Huntingdon County Hospital and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, to which General Practitioners can refer their patients for specialist investigation.

**(e) Hospital Services.**

**Fever:**—As from May, 1955, facilities for the investigation and treatment of Infectious Diseases are provided by the Isolation Hospitals at Ely, Cambridge and Peterborough.

**General Hospital Services** were provided by the County Hospital, Huntingdon, and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

**Maternity Cases:**—Following the closing of Paxton Park Maternity Hospital, St. Neots, in September, cases are now admitted to Primrose Lane Maternity Hospital, Huntingdon.

**CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE**

	Total Cases Notified
Scarlet Fever	... 3
Whooping Cough	... 37
Diphtheria	... -
Measles	... 96
Acute Pneumonia	... 5
Puerperal Pyrexia	... 12
Typhoid Fever	... -
Erysipelas	... 3
Acute Poliomyelitis	... -
Infective Hepatitis	... -
	—
	156

**TUBERCULOSIS.**

Total number on Register at 31st December, 1955: 49

Pulmonary: 34

Non-Pulmonary: 15

New Cases.

New Cases

—Diagnosed

—Transfers

Age			Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
Periods.			M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	...	...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	...	...	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
10	...	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15	...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	...	...	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
25	...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	...	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
55	...	...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 & upwards			—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	...		4	1	4	1	1	—	—	—

No action was found to be necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1952, in connection with persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, which deals with the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.



### DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

During the year the number of children immunised was as follows:

Age at Date of	Under							
Immunisation	1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	Total
Primary								
Immunisation	41	43	3	5	1	20	2	115
Secondary or								
Reinforcing								
Injection	—	—	—	1	10	67	46	124

The following table gives in detail the Diphtheria Immunisation state within the District of children up to the age of 15 years:

Age at	31-12-55	Under 1	1-4	5-9	10-14	Under 15
i.e. born in year	1955	1954-19	51	1950-1946	1945-1941	Total
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster)						
A : 1951—1955	3	348		309	246	906
B : 1950 or earlier	—	—		214	265	479

### REPORT OF SURVEYOR AND CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1955

#### WATER SUPPLY

The improvements to the source at Diddington consisting of the laying of a duplicate five inch pumping main from the Pumping Station to Stirtloc was completed during the year and larger pumps were installed in the Pumping Station. The pumps at Diddington are now controlled by a time switch cut in and a pressure switch cut out which operates when the ball valve fitted inside Buckden reservoir closes. The roadway to the pumping station was also improved.

The three inch mains extension to the top of Agden Rise, Stonely, was also completed during the year.

Ball valves and pressure switch cut outs were ordered during the year in connection with the Yelling and Grafham water towers.

The higher parts of parishes supplied from the Kimbolton Regional Water Scheme have at times suffered with an intermittent water supply due no doubt in the main to the lower yield of the wells owned by Raunds U.D.C. An agreed solution for the increase in the maximum supply of water from Raunds U.D.C. to 75,000 galls. per day has not been reached during the year. An inquiry was held by a Ministry Inspector and an amended scheme has been submitted by the Rural District Council for the Ministry's approval, but the carrying out of the Scheme will depend upon whether Raunds U.D.C. are prepared to make the 75,000 galls. per day available at a satisfactory pressure.

Interruptions in supply of water occurred on 47 occasions due to burst water mains or services. Twenty of these bursts occurred on the Kimbolton Scheme, 11 on the Abbotsley, 1 on the Gt. Staughton and 15 on the Buckden Scheme. On the Kimbolton and Abbotsley Schemes, the cause of most of these bursts was exterior corrosion of the cast iron pipes. Some of the minor bursts were due to defective ferrules, saddles and sluice valves.

2,277 properties are now supplied with mains water and almost all the houses now enjoy this service. 34 houses were connected to the mains water during the year, and water was extended inside sixty houses from outside standpipes.

#### MAIN PIPED SUPPLIES.

Source of Supply.	Parishes Supplied.	Daily Consumption.
a. South Cambs. R.D.C.	Abbotsley, Waresley, Gt. Gransden, Tetworth and part of Eynesbury Hard.	22,847 galls.
b. Ramds U.D.C.	Kimbolton, Covington, Catworth, Tilbrook & Stow Longa.	44,366 galls.
c. Diddington (St. Neots R.D.C.)	Buckden, Diddington, Grafham, Southoe, Lt. Paxton, Hail Weston, Offords, Gt. Paxton, Toseland, Yelling and parts of Perry.	98,622 galls.
d. Staughton Moor (St. Neots R.D.C.)	Gt. Staughton and parts of Perry	16,000 galls. (estimated).
e. St. Neots U.D.C.	St. Neots Rural & Eynesbury Hardwicke.	Not known.

H.M. Borstal Institution, Gaynes Hall, has been supplied partly from Staughton Moor and partly from Diddington during the year.

The daily average amount of water supplied increased by two gallons per head per day for all purposes making a total of 26 galls. per head per day; the unmetered supply increased by three gallons per head to 17 galls. per head per day.

ANNUAL RAINFALL at Gt. Gransden Hall: 18.93 inches, a decrease of 7.73 inches from the 1954 figure. Rain falling on 135 days. This is about 85% of average rainfall.

COUNTY OF HUNTINGDON

REPORT ON WATER SUPPLY FOR THE ST. NEOTS RURAL DISTRICT FOR THE YEAR 1955

Estimated No. of Estimated Popu-  
Dwellings Supplied. lation Supplied.

Name of Town, Village or Parish	Source of Supply, Public Supply, Wells, etc.	Sufficiency or Otherwise	Quality of Water	Analyses of In- dividual Supplies		No. of such Analyses.	Direct from Main Supply.	By Stand-pipes.	By Public or Private Wells.	Direct from Main Supply.	By Stand-pipes.	By Public or Private Wells.	
				Satisfactory, Unsatisfactory, or none.	Private Supplies only.								
Abbotsley	Public Main	Suff.	Satis.	Nil	Nil	—	72	21	2	214	63	6	
Buckden	"	"	"	Sat. 1	Sat. 1	1	269	57	37	827	160	70	
Catworth	"	"	"	Sat. 2	Unsat. 1	3	60	34	4	166	95	12	
Covington	"	"	"	Unsat. 3	Unsat. 3	3	23	4	3	72	9	9	
Diddington	"	"	"	Nil	Nil	—	38	3	10	127(a)	11	30	
Eynesbury	H. U.D.C. & R.D.C. Mains & Wells	"	"	Nil	Nil	—	25	—	8	90	—	27	
Grafham	Public Main	"	"	Nil	Nil	—	68	4	—	194	7	—	
Gt. Gransden	"	"	"	Unsat. 5	Unsat. 5	5	145	23	15	314	60	22	
Gt. Paxton	"	"	"	Nil	Nil	—	125	1	1	356	3	3	
Gt. Staughton	"	"	"	Nil	Nil	—	212	43	14	748(b)	80	47	
Hail Weston	"	"	"	Nil	Nil	—	92	10	3	249	24	9	
Kimbolton	"	"	"	Unsat. 3	Unsat. 3	3	242	31	3	1208	75	6	
Lt. Paxton	"	"	"	Nil	Nil	—	85	1	4	310	2	12	
Offord Cluny	"	"	"	Nil	Nil	—	87	12	9	199	25	18	
Offord Darcy	"	"	"	Nil	Nil	—	80	14	7	239	42	14	
Southoe & Midloe	"	"	"	Sat. 1	Sat. 1	1	67	17	4	205	54	8	
St. Neots Rural	U.D.C. & R.D.C. Mains and Wells	"	"	Nil	Nil	—	18	—	—	72	—	—	
Stow	Public Main	"	"	Nil	Nil	—	31	1	—	84	—	—	
Tetworth	Biggswade Water Board	"	"										
	South Cambs. R.D.C.												
	Mains and Wells												
Tilbrook	Public Main	"	"	Nil	Nil	—	20	1	10	71	3	33	
Toseland	"	"	"	Nil	Nil	—	72	5	4	183	15	10	
Waresley	"	"	"	Nil	Nil	—	27	14	1	88	30	3	
Yelling	"	"	"	Nil	Nil	—	48	—	10	143	—	27	
	"	"	"	Nil	Nil	—	67	7	3	191	20	9	
* The higher parts of these Parishes have at times suffered water shortage due to lack of pressure in the mains due to lower yield of wells owned by Raunds U.D.C.							16	1974	303	152	6350	778	375
							2429		7503				

Notes—(a) Polish Camp closed down now.  
(b) Includes H.M. Borstal Institution at Gaynes Hall.  
(c) Includes Kimbolton School, 165 day pupils & 279 boarders.

Particulars regarding plumbosolvent action connected with above supplies: Nil.



## BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS ON RAW WATER.

11 satisfactory samples and 1 unsatisfactory sample were obtained from the Diddington well. The treatment plant functioned properly as all samples of treated water were satisfactory. All samples from Staughton Moor supply are raw in that this supply receives no treatment.

## BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS ON TREATED WATER.

All samples taken during the year were satisfactory as follows: South Cambs. R.D.C., 13 samples; Raunds U.D.C., 13 samples; Diddington 12 samples; Gt. Staughton, 13 samples; total 51 samples.

## CHEMICAL ANALYSIS.

One satisfactory sample was taken from each of the four Schemes during the year.

A sample from a private supply to a farm was submitted to chemical analysis and it was found that the well was probably being polluted by the chemical spraying of the adjacent fields. Advice was given upon treating the water and it was also suggested that a mains water supply should be laid on.

## PRIVATE WELLS.

Wells cleansed and repaired: 2. Wells closed as polluted: 2. Number of samples obtained for analysis found to be satisfactory: 4. Unsatisfactory: 12. Action taken: main water laid on where practicable and in other cases occupiers advised to boil all water intended for human consumption. Any insufficiency: none known.

## SWIMMING POOLS.

During the year the construction of a small swimming pool was commenced at Offord School and the Council have agreed in principle to supply the necessary water. The capacity of this bath is 11,000 gallons. A larger swimming pool of 100,000 gallons capacity is also under construction at Kimbolton Castle for Kimbolton School, and the Council and Raunds U.D.C. have agreed to make the necessary water supply available. In this case a complete treatment plant is to be installed in order that the water can be re-circulated.

## SEWERS AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Work proceeded during 1955 on the modified Sewerage Scheme covering the greater part of Buckden. At the end of the year all the sewers had been laid and the sewage disposal works were practically completed; the remaining work consisting of drain connections. It is hoped to operate the plant early in 1956. At the end of 1955, the Ministry gave the Council approval to obtain tenders for the laying of new sewers in the remaining part of Buckden. It is regretted that permission was not given for the whole scheme in the first instance as undoubtedly the cost will be increased by doing the work under two tenders.

The Council decided to give notice terminating nightsoil collection to those properties covered by the sewerage scheme in Buckden village on the 30th September, 1956. Consequently, notices were served under Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936, requiring conversions to water closets in the case of 85 properties, the Council undertaking to pay half the reasonable cost of the work involved. These conversions cannot, of course, be commenced until 1956.

The Ministry have granted a starting date for the whole of the Kimbolton section of the Kimbolton and Gt. Staughton joint scheme on the 1st April, 1956, with permission to continue with the Gt. Staughton section during 1957. Tenders for this work will be invited during the early part of 1956.

About 60 yards of new sewer was laid in Lt. Paxton to serve the "Anchor" Inn by the Brewery Company concerned and the Council have agreed to pay the extra cost of the sewer as it is laid to form part of a sewerage scheme for the village generally.

Five piped sewers received attention during the year along with the cleansing of the Kimbolton Sewerage tanks. Sewerage works on the Council's old housing sites are regularly dealt with by the Council's cesspool emptier, as one afternoon per week is set aside for this work. Eight repairs were carried out to sewage works. 43 private cesspools and 57 Council cesspools or sewerage tanks were cleansed during the year.

#### **PUBLIC CLEANSING.**

There are no changes to report during the year except that the cost of emptying each dustbin is now approximately 8d., and each pail closet about 9½d. 4 controlled tips are still in use.

#### **SALVAGE.**

The Council's workmen have collected the following salvage during the year:

Waste paper, iron and lead, total weight 8 tons; value £42 approx.

#### **PETROLEUM STORAGE LICENCES.**

No new licences were issued and 49 were renewed during the year making a total of 49 on the register.

#### **MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.**

12 licences were issued during the year and the total licensed is now 26. 6 improvements to conditions were made. Generally speaking these dwellings are maintained in an excellent condition.

#### **COUNCIL HOUSE MAINTENANCE.**

1,449 inspections were made and 436 orders were issued for repairs. A further 14 pre-war Council houses were provided with an approved type of solid fuel cooking appliance which will be capable of supplying hot water at a later date. A hot water supply, bathroom and W.C. was installed in each of four Council houses at Catworth. Tenders were obtained and orders placed for W.C. conversions, bathrooms and hot water supplies to 8 houses at Gt. Staughton, 24 at Buckden and 4 at Gt. Paxton. At the end of the year the work at Gt. Staughton was about 50% completed, a start had been made at Buckden and an early start was anticipated at Gt. Paxton. I am pleased that the Council are pursuing their policy of modernising pre-war houses in



spite of financial difficulties. A good example is thereby set which many private property owners are following with the assistance of improvement grants.

### NEW BUILDINGS.

172 plans of new buildings or alterations were deposited. Three plans were altered by the applicants as they did not comply with byelaws. 1 case was discovered of buildings erected without plans being approved and alterations are in progress to comply with byelaws. 445 visits were paid to works in progress.

### MILK AND DAIRIES.

12 retailers are registered with the Council as all other dealers are producers also and therefore under the Ministry of Agriculture. 12 inspections of premises were carried out. 4 supplementary licences for T.T., 5 for pasteurised and 2 for sterilised milk were issued. 3 dealers are licensed for T.T. and pasteurised milks. The conditions of a number of delivery vans was inspected and the owners' attention drawn to any defects found including the absence of the name and address of the retailer.

### FOOD INSPECTIONS INCLUDING SLAUGHTERHOUSES

41 inspections of food premises were made and several improvements in conditions were noted. 29 places are still registered under Section 14 of the Act and one application for registration is still held in abeyance until the premises are brought up to standard.

No clean food campaigns have been held and there are no manufacturers of ice cream in the area, and the number of food premises is still the same as reported in 1953.

A slaughter house at Kimbolton operated during the year and the animals inspected were as follows:—

#### CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Total number slaughtered (if known)	57	1	Nil	125	128
No. Inspected	57	1	Nil	125	128
All diseases except Tuberculosis:—					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	4	—	—	13	5
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than T.B.	7%	—	—	10.4%	3.9%
Tuberculosis only:—					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	4	—	—	—	7
Percentage of the number inspected affected with T.B.	7%	—	—	—	5.4%

No horses were slaughtered. No carcasses were affected with cysticercosis.

Most other parts of the area are served with slaughtering facilities provided by St. Neots U.D.C.

2 cwts. 2 qtrs. 1 st. 11 lbs. of meat, tinned fruit, vegetables, jam, fish and soup were condemned as unfit for human consumption and disposed of either on the Council's tips or in boiler houses.

Visits of inspection to the slaughter house numbered 130; 4 other slaughter houses are not in use, and in my opinion are not fit for use.

The licences of 7 slaughter men were renewed on the 1st October, 1955, under the new Regulations.

**PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949**  
**REPORT FOR 12 MONTHS ENDED 31st MARCH, 1956**  
 Type of Property

	Local Authority Dwelling Houses	All other (in- cluding Business & Industrial)	Total	Agricul- tural	
<b>I</b> Number of properties in Local Authority's District (Notes 1 & 2).	21	2072	167	2260	351
<b>II</b> Number of properties in- spected as a result of :					
(a) Notification	—	66	11	77	5
(b) Survey under the Act	9	15	4	28	—
(c) Otherwise (e.g., when visited primarily for some other purpose)	—	—	—	—	—
<b>III</b> Total inspections carried out —including re-inspections (To be completed only if figures are readily available)	122	509	59	690	39
<b>IV</b> Number of properties inspect- ed (in Section II) which were found to be infested by:					
(a) Rats	2	1	5	8	2
Major	6	73	8	87	3
Minor	1	1	1	3	—
(b) Mice	—	7	2	9	—
Major					
Minor					
<b>V</b> Number of infested properties (in Section IV) treated by the L.A. (Figures should NOT exceed those given at Section IV)	9	81	15	105	5
<b>VI</b> Total treatments carried out —including re-treatments ... (To be completed only if figures are readily available)	119	495	56	670	14

VII	Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act:—					
	(a) Treatment ...	—	—	—	—	—
	(b) Structural Work ...	—	—	—	—	—
	(i.e. Proofing)					
VIII	Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under Section 4 of the Act ...	—	—	—	—	—
IX	Legal Proceedings ...	—	—	—	—	—
X	Number of 'block' control schemes carried out ...	11				

## NOTES.

## Note 1—

With the exception of agricultural properties, a property means one which is entered separately in the Valuation Roll for the area.

## Note 2—

- (i) Premises used by the L.A. for the purposes of trade should be entered in Col. (3).
- (ii) Sewers should not be included.
- (iii) Combined dwelling and business premises, where occupied by the same person, should be regarded as business premises and should be entered in Col. (3). Where the dwelling and business parts of the premises are in separate occupation, separate entries should be made in Cols. (2) and (3).

## Note 3—

For the purpose of completing Sections II, IV and V, each property should be entered once only in respect of inspections, infestations or treatments.

## NEW HOUSING.

The number of new Council houses built is as follows:—

Parish	Completed during year	Under construction	Total built since 1945
Abbotsley	... —	—	12
Buckden	... —	—	40
Gt. Gransden	... —	—	32
Gt. Staughton	... —	—	30
Gt. Paxton	... —	—	36
Kimbolton	... —	—	14
Offord Darcy	... —	4	8
Offord Cluny	... —	—	30
Stow Longa	... —	—	4
Tilbrook	... —	—	8
Yelling	... —	—	14
Grafham	... —	—	10
Hail Weston	... —	—	23
Little Paxton	... 12	—	26
Southoe	... —	—	8
Covington	... —	—	2
Catworth	... —	—	4
	12	4	301

In addition, the Council own 20 Ministry of Works prefabs. There is now only one converted hutment occupied and it is hoped to demolish all these huts during 1956.

12 new private enterprise houses were completed during the year and 1 additional house provided by conversion.

### HOUSING INSPECTION.

Further progress has been made in dealing with unfit houses under the Housing Acts. The four houses comprising a small clearance area were demolished during the year. 25 unfit houses have been dealt with formally under the Housing Act, 1936, or the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953, and 12 houses have been demolished during the year. 5 houses have been rendered fit following undertakings under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936.

The reclassification of all houses in the area continued during the year and the Council submitted a programme of Slum Clearance covering 133 houses which would be dealt with during the next five years. As a first step, 12 new Council houses are to be built at Buckden for the purpose of re-housing tenants. This latest survey of houses revealed that the general standard of housing in the District has risen considerably since the 1945 survey.

Since the 1949 Housing Act authorised the making of improvement grants the Council have approved schemes covering 72 houses; schemes covering 42 of these applications were received during 1955. In 40 cases, the work has been completed and grants paid; 24 of the houses covered by the schemes being completed during 1955. It will be seen therefore that there has been a considerable increase in the number of applications received and approved and many of these houses are houses which are let to tenants.

### HOUSING TABLE

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year:—
  - (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... 1677
  - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 1446
  - (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ... 25
  - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 43
  - (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 133
  - (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... 181
2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices:—
 

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ... 121
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:—
  - (a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, 11 & 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—
    - (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... —



(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By owners.	... 5
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	... —
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	... 2
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By owners	... 1
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	... —
(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	... 7
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	... 12
(3) Undertakings to make fit accepted or as to use	... 12
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936; or Section 10 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953:—	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	... 6
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	... —
4. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding.	
(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	... 1
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	... 1
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	... 4
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	... —
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	... —
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	... —
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	... —
(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report	... —

#### SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS MADE:—

Total number of notices served	... 187
Informal	... 185
Formal	... 2
Total number of notices complied with	... 113
Informal	... 106
Formal	... 6
Work in default	... Nil



## ANALYSIS OF INSPECTIONS MADE:—

Housing	... 1385
Council House Maintenance	... 1449
Houses, etc. Under P.H. Act, 1936,	... 292
Houses, etc. Under P.H. Act, 1936, re-visits	... 144
Supervising erection of new buildings	... 445
Sewers and Sewage Disposal	... 187
Post-war Housing	... 63
Dairies	... 12
Bakehouses	... 6
Drains Tested	... 119
Infectious Disease	... 7
Rooms Disinfected	... 3
Vermin	... Nil
Water Supply (samples taken bact. 79, chem. 5)	... 1098
Scavenging	... 48
Food Premises	... 41
Rats and Mice	... 25
Miscellaneous	... 78
Moveable Dwellings	... 27
Factories (with power)	... 16
Factories (without power)	... 13
Factories (other sites)	... 21
Housing Applications	... 4
Outworkers	... 2
Petroleum	... 1
Street Numbering	... 2
Slaughter houses	... 130

## CLOSET ACCOMMODATION, ETC.

Number of houses with pail or tub closets in area (est.)	... 1293
Number of houses with W.C.'s in area (est.)	... 1136
Number of pails reconstructed as W.C.'s in 1955	... 45
Number of W.C.'s constructed in 1955 for new premises	... 25
Number of new pails provided	... Nil
Number of new dustbins provided	... 56

## FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Total number on Register (including bakehouses)	... 68
Number of inspections	... 50
Number in which defects remedied	... 2
Bakehouses, number on Register	... 9
Number in which defects remedied	... —
Number of notices served	... —
Number of notices complied with	... —











